

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01166 301919Z

41

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SS-15 PM-04 INR-07 EB-07

L-03 SP-02 IGA-02 /049 W

----- 112196

O P 301558Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3299

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1166

STADIS//////////

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, RH

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES FOR RHODESIA

REF: STATE 103271

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION PRESENTLY AVAILABLE REGARDING PROBABLE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES FOR RHODESIA AND ZAMBIA WERE STEPS TAKEN TO CLOSE REMAINING BORDERS OF RHODESIA. AS REQUESTED OUR RESPONSE FOCUSES ON QUESTIONS 2C AND D OF REFTEL.

2. ALTERNATIVES REMAINING TO RHODESIA. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, ZAMBIAN BORDER WITH RHODESIA HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY CLOSED SINCE JANUARY 1973. APART FROM EXCHANGES OF ELECTRICITY FROM A COMMON ELECTRICAL GRID, THERE IS NOW NO RPT NO TRADE IN EITHER DIRECTION, IMPROTANCE OF ZAMBIA TO RHODESIA ECONOMY IS THEREFORE VIRTUALLY NIL AT THIS POINT. EXISTING NORTHBOUND RAIL TRAFFIC ACROSS VICTORIA FALLS BRIDGE BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUSAKA 01166 301919Z

RHODESIA NOW CONSISTS ENTIRELY OF COMMODITIES IMPORTED BY ZAIRE

FROM RHODESIA, INCLUDING SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF COKE AND MAIZE, AS WELL AS PETROLEUM AND OTHER IMPORTS BY ZAIRE FROM SOUTH AFRICA TRANSPORTED OVER RHODESIAN RAILWAY SYSTEM. SOUTH-BOUND ZAIRE EXPORTS SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF COPPER OVER SAME ROUTE TO PORTS IN SOUTH AFRICA. ONLY EXCEPTION TO ZAMBIAN BAN ON IMPORTS VIA RHODESIA ARE CERTAIN EXTREMELY HEAVY ITEMS SUCH AS POWER PLANT TURBINES WHICH CANNOT BECAUSE OF THEIR WEIGHT BE CARRIED OVER TAZARA OR OTHER RAIL AND ROAD SYSTEMS OUTSIDE OF RHODESIA. DESPITE FREQUENT ALLEGATIONS THAT ZAMBIA HAS BEEN CLANDESTINELY EXPORTING COPPER THROUGH RHODESIA DISGUISED AS OR PIGGY-BACKED ON ZAIRE COPPER SHIPMENTS, NO EVIDENCE OF THIS CAN BE CONFIRMED EITHER BY THIS EMBASSY OR BY UK HIGH COMMISSION LUSAKA WHICH HAS BEEN FOLLOWING THIS MATTER CLOSELY. IN SHORT, VIRTUALLY ALL TRAFFIC ACROSS VICTORIA FALLS BRIDGE IS ZAIREAN.

3. ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES AND COSTS TO ZAMBIA. SOME ZAMBIAN IMPORTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA, CURRENTLY ESTIMATED BY UK HICOM AT 500-700 TONS PER MONTH, DO GO BY RAIL THROUGH RHODESIA TO VICTORIA FALLS WHENCE THEY ARE TRUCKED SHORT DISTANCE THROUGH BOTSWANA AND ACROSS KAZUNGULA FERRY INTO ZAMBIA. THIS CUMBERSOME TRANSSHIPMENT HAS ENABLED ZAMBIANS TO MAINTAIN FICTION THAT THESE GOODS ENTER ZAMBIA FROM BOTSWANA RATHER THAN FROM RHODESIA. CLOSING BOTSWANA BORDER WITH RHODESIA WOULD PRESUMABLY AFFECT THESE SHIPMENTS BUT IMPACT ON ZAMBIAN ECONOMY WOULD BE MINOR. COMPLETION SOMETIME IN 1977 OF BOT-ZAM HIGHWAY WOULD ENABLE ZAMBIA TO DISPENSE WITH EVEN THIS LINGERING RELIANCE ON RHODESIAN RAIL/ROAD SYSTEM.

4. MINING COMPANY OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US A RATHER EXTENSIVE STUDY HAS BEEN MADE BY THE COMPANIES ON THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE RHODESIAN BORDER CLOSURES. THIS HAS BEEN PASSED TO GRZ. WE HAVE LET ZAMBIAN GOVT KNOW THAT EMBASSY INTERESTED IN OBTAINING MORE DATA ON RHODESIAN COMMUNICATIONS AND TRADE, AND HAVE BEEN GIVEN PROMISES BY STATE HOUSE AND FONMIN THEY WOULD BE PREPARED SHARE SOME ELEMENTS OF THIS DATA WITH US IF IT RELEVANT TO OUR PURPOSE AND ESPECIALLY IF IT WOULD ACCELERATE IMPLEMENTATION OF SECRETARY'S 10-POINT PROGRAM OUTLINED IN HIS LUSAKA ADDRESS.  
WILKOWSKI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, BORDER CONTROLS, EMBARGOES, FOREIGN TRADE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976LUSAKA01166  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760165-0545  
**From:** LUSAKA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t1976043/aaaaacfs.tel  
**Line Count:** 99  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 103271  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES FOR RHODESIA  
**TAGS:** ECON, RH, ZA, CG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006